

The Withering Tree

Jai Prakash Acharya



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In the heart of bustling Delhi, there resided a young man named *Ankush*.

He harbored ambitious aspirations, the kind that often kept him awake at night. However, his father, *Shyamlal*, did not share his enthusiasm for these dreams.

One day, without much forewarning, Shyamlal abruptly departed.

Vanished.....

No Explanation

no note, not even a farewell.

Ankush's world, once vibrant,
suddenly felt considerably constricted.

The responsibility for his family — his mother and his younger sister,
Geeta
now rested heavily upon his shoulders.
They depended on him, looked up to him as a
pillar of strength.

Thus, he diligently applied himself, engaging in various odd jobs and entrepreneurial ventures to ensure their financial stability.

His days and nights were consumed by the demands of delivering newspapers, tutoring students,

and any other opportunity that presented itself.

He even attempted to generate income by selling newspapers at a street corner.

Throughout these challenging times,
Ankush maintained a resolute demeanor,
striving to be the unwavering support his family
desperately needed.

*Yet, in the quietude of the late hours, when
the city slumbered,
he would inevitably ponder the
whereabouts of his father.....*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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An enthusiastic reader and author hailing from New Delhi, India, with a deep appreciation for literature, takes pleasure in conveying numerous themes and insights through succinct and impactful short stories.